



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/071,628	02/08/2002	Hiroshi Abe	KASAHI 01-02.PA	2337
29747	7590	07/21/2006	EXAMINER	
GREENBERG TRAURIG 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PARKWAY SUITE 500 NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89109			BEAUCHAINE, MARK J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/071,628	ABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark J. Beauchaine	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 8-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/151,531.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the Applicant's amendment dated 8 February 2006 that was in response to final Office action dated 27 December 2005. The finality of said Office action is hereby withdrawn. Furthermore, any previous statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter is hereby withdrawn.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/151531, filed on 11 September 1998.

Oath/Declaration

Receipt of the Supplemental Reissue Declaration submitted 8 February 2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The following terms are ambiguous:

“center section” (line 3) and “under surface” (line 4). It is unclear what claim elements the terms refers to.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 4,059,122 by Kinoshita (“Kinoshita”) in view of Patent Number 4,249,431 by Pruvot et al (“Pruvot”). The coin apparatus disclosed by Kinoshita incorporates disc 106, shaft portion (at head 104) and motor M that read on the Applicant’s disc means, rotating means and drive means, respectively (see Figure 2). Said apparatus further discloses the central axes of head 104 and motor shaft 100 being in line with each other and with the connecting shaft portions of gear head 101.

Although Kinoshita fails to disclose said gear head 101 as a planet gear configuration the use of such in-line planet gears are well known in the art. Pruvot teaches a planetary gear apparatus that transmits energy from the shaft of motor 1 to output shaft 17 via planet wheel 4. The axis of the motor shaft is in line with both the

center rotational axes of planet wheel 4 and output shaft 17 and reads on the Applicant's planet gear configuration. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the gear apparatus of Pruvot into the drive configuration of Kinoshita to provide an effective means of power transmission.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita in view of Pruvot as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Patent Number 5,711,704 by Hughes et al ("Hughes"). Although Kinoshita fails to disclose the shaft portion (at head 104) to be axially movable in relation to the gear head 101 the use of such movable shaft means is well known in the art. Hughes teaches a shaft incorporated in drive member 10 that rotates coin disc 12. Said shaft is axially movable related to the gear drive means (see Figure 4) and reads on the Applicant's rotating means. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the axially movable drive member 10 configuration of Hughes into the apparatus of Kinoshita to provide an effective height adjustment of the rotating coin-discharge disc.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita in view of Pruvot as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Patent Number 3,902,511 by Jacobs ("Jacobs"). Although Kinoshita is silent in regards to the removability of the connection between disc 106 and the attached shaft portion the use

of readily removable shaft/disk connections is well known in the art. Jacobs teaches a coin-ejecting disk 22 attached to a rotating shaft via an easily removable screw (see Figure 2). Said screw reads on the Applicant's removable connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the screw attachment of Jacobs into the apparatus of Kinoshita to provide an effective means of easily removing disc 106 from the apparatus.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 are allowed. Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 1, 2 and 5-7, the Examiner considers Hughes to be the prior art most closely related to the Applicant's claimed invention. Although the height of the coin disc 12 of Hughes is adjustable via threaded bush 16 which reads on the elevation body of the Applicant's independent claims 1 and 5, Hughes fails to disclose or suggest axially extending projections incorporated within said bush 16.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the Examiner considers Patent Number 5,950,796 by Kobayashi ("Kobayashi") to be the prior art most closely related to the Applicant's claimed invention. Although the rotating disk 11 of Kobayashi incorporates coin holes

13 and reads on the Applicant's main disc of independent claim 3, it fails to disclose or suggest a cover disc that is attachable to disk 11.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571)272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mjb

Kathy Matecki
KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600